

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, before the first paragraph, please add the following paragraphs:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

On Page 1, please replace the first paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention relates to a method for welding two rails of a track ~~according to the features cited in the introductory part of claim 1.~~

On Page 1, after the first full paragraph, please add the following paragraph:

2. Description of the Related Art

On Page 1, before the fourth full paragraph, please add the following paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On Page 1, please replace the fifth full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~According to the invention, this~~ This object is achieved with a method ~~of the type mentioned at the beginning by means of the features cited in the characterizing part of claim 1~~ according to the invention.

On Page 1, please replace the seventh full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

Additional advantages and features of the invention become apparent from the further ~~claims~~ discussion below and the drawing.

On Page 2, before the first paragraph, please add the following paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On Page 2, before the second paragraph, please add the following paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

On Page 3, please replace the last full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to weld the first rail 8-as seen in the working direction 11 of a welding machine 20-to the second rail 10 at a temperature above neutral temperature, it is necessary to first form a rail anchor 16 by bracing a section of a third rail 14, adjoining the second rail 10, with associated ~~sleepers~~ ties 15 (see Figs. 3 and 4). With this, a longitudinal movement of the third rail 14 relative to the associated ~~sleepers~~ ties 15 is precluded. A hydraulic rail-pushing device 19 is force-lockingly brought in contact with the adjoining rail ends 7 of the second and third rail 10,14, while the welding unit 1 is placed over the adjoining rail ends 7 of the first and second rail 8,10 and force-lockingly connected to the two rail ends 7 by means of the clamping jaws 5.

On Page 4, please replace the last full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

This method ensures that, after termination of the rail welding, the ideal compressive stress correlating to the actual rail temperature exists in the welded rails 8,10. As soon as the first rail 8 has been fully connected (or anchored), as prescribed, to the associated ~~sleepers~~ ties 15 by tightening the rail fastening means or installing rail clamps, hydraulic

cylinders 21 of the rail-pushing device 19 are switched pressure-less. The welding unit 1 may be detached and lifted from the rails 8,10 immediately after removal of a welding burr.

In the Abstract, please replace the Abstract currently on file with the amended Abstract attached hereto on its own separate sheet.